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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1126
By West

A RESOLUTION to commend Melissa Maureen Skidmore for
Exemplary Service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Skidmore is one such individual who has distinguished herself in her role as a legislative intern for Representatives Ben West, Jr., Chairman; Larry Turner, Vice-Chairman; and Sherry Jones, Secretary; and the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee; Ms. Skidmore's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators she assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Lee University, Ms. Skidmore maintained a 3.1 Grade Point Average during her exemplary tenure as a student and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, as an active member of the student body, Ms. Skidmore participated in numerous scholastic organizations, including Rotaract and the Lee University Pep Band; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Skidmore has participated in numerous political organizations, including the National Federation of Republic Women and the Republican National Party, and has previously interned with U. S. Congressman Zach Wamp who represents the 3rd District of the great state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Hillsboro High School in Hillsboro, Ohio, Ms. Skidmore was heavily involved in her school and community; and

WHEREAS, a multi-talented individual, Ms. Skidmore possesses exceptional musical talent, as she was an active member of the Hillsboro High School Marching Band where she was senior soloist and recipient of the John Philip Souza Band Award in 1997, competed in OMEA concert and marching band competitions where her school won the state competition, performed in the Spirit of America National Honor Band in 1996, participated in the Junior High Show Choir during grades eight and nine and then becoming a member of the Hillsboro High School Senior High Choral Ensemble; and

WHEREAS, a person of impeccable character, Melissa Skidmore actively served in her Youth Group, Youth Choir, "H.E.A.R.T." Drama Team, Vacation Bible school teacher/assistant, at the Hillsboro Church of God; and

WHEREAS, while a member of the Hillsboro Church of God in Hillsboro Ohio, Ms. Skidmore participated in Teen Talent Competition in such categories as Bible Quiz Team, Vocal-Solo, Vocal-Small Ensemble, Instrumental-Solo, Creative Writing-Short Story where she won first place in 1998, and Creative Writing-Poetry where she won first runner-up in 1998; and

WHEREAS, now that Melissa Skidmore has made Tennessee her home, she is now a member of the Dunlap United Methodist Church where she and her fiancé, Jeffrey Scott Mackey, will be joined in marriage on August 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Skidmore's accomplishments are a source of great pride for her family; her strong character and unremitting work ethic are a credit to her father and stepmother, David

and Dee Skidmore of Grayson, Kentucky; and her mother and stepfather, Alberta and Gary Duncan of Hillsboro, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, she is the loving sister of Tiffany Hill, Gary Duncan, Cory Duncan, Casidy Duncan and Michael Ballentine and his wife Sandi; she is also the adoring aunt of Gabrielle Ballentine; and

WHEREAS, through many adversities, Melissa Skidmore defied the odds by learning to walk again following an automobile accident in January 1998 and undergoing five major knee surgeries thereafter to repair the damage to her right leg; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize herself with the characteristics and complexity of Tennessee state government and to further her studies, she brought her many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2002 session of the One Hundred Second General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2002 legislative session, Melissa Skidmore has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, she has performed her many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Melissa Maureen Skidmore for outstanding service as legislative intern for Representatives Ben West, Jr., Chairman, Larry Turner, Vice-Chairman, Sherry Jones, Secretary; and the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.